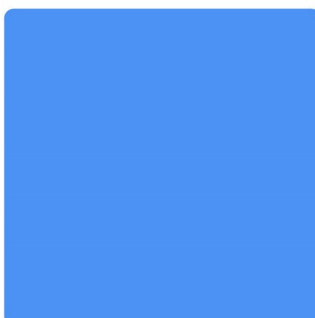


2015



IOM Romania Annual Report



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organizația Internațională pentru Migrație

This annual report is an overview of the IOM Romania's activity and results achieved in 2015.

The information in the report is structured in the following chapters:

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I The International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading intergovernmental organisation in the field of migration. The organisation counts 162 member states. A further 9 states hold observer status. IOM's programme budget for 2012 exceeded USD 1.2 billion, funding over 2,300 projects and more than 7,800 staff serving in approximately 470 field offices in over 100 countries.

IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits all, migrants and societies, and does so by providing services and counselling to governments and migrants. IOM also promotes international cooperation on migration issues, assists in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and provides humanitarian assistance to migrants in need.

IOM works with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners in four broad areas of migration management:

Migration and development where IOM harnesses the development potential of migration for individual migrants and societies through activities such as: improving remittance management, building

human capital through labour migration programmes, return and reintegration of qualified nationals, capacity building for governments.

Facilitating migration where IOM assists governments and migrants with selection/recruitment, language and cultural orientation, consular services, training, reception, integration and return.

IOM provides technical assistance in **Regulating migration** through activities such as training for governmental migration managers on border management, visa systems, regulating entry and stay and collecting and using biometric information, as well as implementing programmes to facilitate the voluntary return and reintegration of displaced and stranded persons.

Addressing forced migration: IOM assists refugee population during and after emergencies as well as facilitating resettlement of refugees for whom resettlement in a new country is the only durable solution.

For more information, visit www.iom.int



II The IOM Office in Romania

IOM was established in Romania in 1992 to respond to the information and counselling needs of the Romanian citizens regarding emigration formalities.

Over the years, the Office in Romania has implemented various national and international cooperation programs in the field of counter trafficking in human beings, facilitating migration, assisting refugees, voluntary return, migrant integration, migrants health and consular support activities.

In 2015, the main areas of intervention for the International Organization for Migration in Romania were:

Integration of third-country nationals (TCN): IOM Romania has established a nation-wide network of 15 Migrant Information Centres to facilitate the TCN's social, economic and cultural integration into their new communities.

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR): IOM conducts AVRR activities, offering the irregular migrants the possibility to return home with dignity and with a reintegration grant to open new opportunities for beneficiaries in their home country.

Refugee relocation: the Office in Romania is a key actor in the relocation process of refugees, working together with UNHCR and the Government of Romania.

Through the Emergency Transit Centre in Timisoara, a secure environment is provided to refugees while they await resettlement to a new country.

Medical Processing: At the request of various governments IOM, in close coordination with UNHCR and the Romanian Ministry of Internal Affairs, provides medical services for the migrants and refugees that are about to be resettled. IOM also provides medical services at the request of the governments of Canada, Australia and New Zealand for the Romanian citizens that wish to emigrate in these countries.

Assisted Transport to Canada: IOM facilitates one-way tickets at specially negotiated fares as part of a humanitarian programme addressed to those who are accepted for resettlement to Canada, or for workers/students who have valid visas for more than 12 months.

Visa Application Centre for Canada: IOM manages the Canadian Visa Application Centre. The centre is operational in Romania since August 2013.

Fighting Trafficking in Human Beings: In 2015, IOM has provided specific assistance to Romanian citizens, victims of trafficking returning from Europe.

For additional information, visit www.oim.ro



III.Outlook on migration 2015

1. IOM Response plan towards migration flows

IOM estimated that by the end of December 2015 the number of irregular migrants arriving in Europe will reach the level of 1.000.000, out of which 96,5% arrived by sea in Greece and Italy. Minimum 3500 migrants lost their lives in 2015 in their attempts to reach Europe by sea.

In this light, IOM has released at the end of October 2015 an update to its June 2015 response plan “Addressing Complex Migration Flows in the Mediterranean”.



It sets out a comprehensive strategy designed to address the multiple aspects of the migration flows heading towards Europe. As such, the Response Plan seeks to tackle emerging assistance needs within Europe and its immediate neighbourhood, as well as the essential drivers of irregular migration and displacement in countries of origin.

The document does not include the delivery of humanitarian assistance to displaced populations, whether refugees or internally displaced persons, in countries where such interventions already benefit from dedicated inter-agency planning documents, inclusive of IOM activities (such is the case for Syria and its neighbours, Iraq, Nigeria, etc.).

The IOM Response Plan is made up of a series of proposed interventions that should be implemented through December 2016, some of which are already under way, while others are at the planning stage.

The plan presents IOM’s proposed interventions and reaffirms the collective responsibility of states, institutions and organizations to respond to the current situation that the international community is facing in Europe and beyond, in a manner that is centered on the protection of migrants’ rights, as well as enhanced partnership between all concerned stakeholders.

The document details four pillars of a coordinated response, which will be implemented across multiple locations in Europe, parts of Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East and North Africa.

The four core pillars and objectives are:

- Protecting migrants’ rights. Recognizes the need to reduce loss of life and human suffering during and as a result of migration and protect the human rights of all migrants.
- Addressing drivers of irregular and forced migration. Recognizes the need to reduce negative contributing factors to irregular and forced migration and enable an informed choice between migrating safely and finding local alternatives.
- Promoting safe, orderly and dignified human mobility. Recognizes the need to create the conditions for migration to take place in safe, orderly and dignified ways.
- Strengthening partnerships for inclusive growth and sustainable development. Recognizes the need to create the structural conditions and

The plan integrates required action across areas of origin, transit and destination. Full implementation of the plan and the effectiveness of the results will be contingent upon mobilizing the required financial resources, which IOM estimates at US\$780 million through 31 December 2016.

2. Migration in Romania, retrospective 2015

In 2015, migration trends in Romanian followed largely the pattern of the previous years. Romania is a country of origin, transit and destination.

However, despite the large irregular migration flows that transited the countries from the West Balkans route – Greece, Macedonia, Serbia and Hungary, Romania has seen a decrease with almost 20% of asylum requests. 1266 requests have been registered in 2015, while in 2014 the total number of requests was 1547, out of which 541 are from Syrian citizens.

If in the past years the asylum seekers were entering Romania mainly illegal, the situation changed in 2015 as the Syrians are usually family members or friends of legally residing Syrian citizens from Romania, and therefore they are coming legally.

As for the number of irregular migrants, the number slightly decreased compared to 2014. 2,324 irregular migrants have been identified in Romania in 2015, 7% less than in 2014 (2,496 cases). 189 migrants have been forced returned by the Romanian authorities, whereas 115 chose the voluntary return and left Romania with IOM's support.

In terms of countries of origin, Moldova, Turkey and Albania continued to feed irregular migratory flows in 2014 as well.

Although Romania was not in 2015 on the main migration route, the government elaborated an action plan regarding the intervention and management in case of major migration flow.

Preparedness actions have been put in place for emergency receive of 20.000 migrants and two temporary camps have been installed close to the western border.

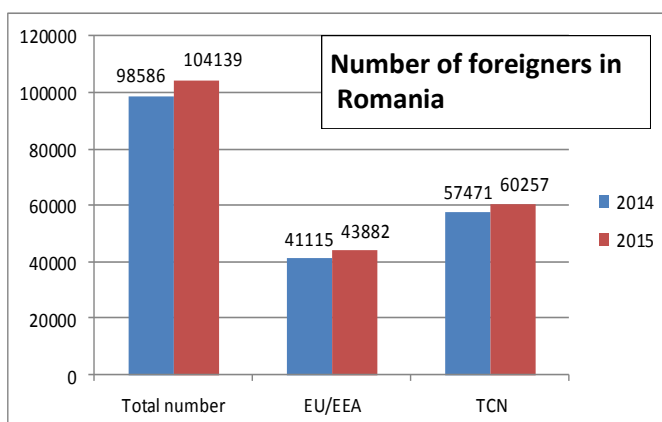


Voluntary returns with IOM

Overall, the number of voluntary returns (115) remained similar with the previous year (113). IOM offered voluntary return and reintegration counselling in 2015 to over 250 irregular migrants. The leading country of origin for voluntary returns remains the Philippines, followed by Iraq and Moldova.

Regular migration

According to the General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII), in 2014, the number of legal migrants in Romania reached 104.139, out of which 60.257 third country nationals (TCN) and 43.882 EU/EEA citizens. This figures represents slight increases in comparison with 2014.



IV. IOM interventions in Romania

In 2015, IOM responded to the specific migration management needs of Romania, as well as of other countries worldwide, through the following intervention areas: (1) facilitating migration (2) regulating migration (3) addressing forced migration (4) migration health (5) assistance for development (6) assisting victims of trafficking (7) consular services (8) other services and programmes.

Interventions are detailed hereafter.

1. Facilitating migration

National coordination of third country nationals' integration in Romania

The “National coordination of third-country nationals (TCN) integration in Romania” was a

authorities on the integration needs of TCNs as well as strengthening the cooperation between the local institutions and organizations with responsibilities in TCN' integration.

The third and final phase of the project, implemented between July 2014 - June 2015, continued to contribute to the social, economic and cultural integration of TCN in Romania. A resource created previously - a network of Migrant Information Centres (MICs) in Bucharest, Bacau, Brasov, Cluj-Napoca, Constanta, Craiova, Galati, Iasi, Oradea, Pitesti Ploiesti, Sibiu, Suceava, Tirgu Mures and Timisoara - supported the implementation of project activities throughout the country. Under IOM coordination, the MICs provide general information to migrants, specific



three-year project (2012 – 2015), co-funded by the European Union from the European Integration Fund, and implemented in collaboration with APEL Association.

The target audience of project the consisted of: (a) third country nationals (citizens of non-member countries) legally residing in Romania as primary publics and (b) local & central authorities and NGOs working on migration, local communities, mass-media as secondary publics.

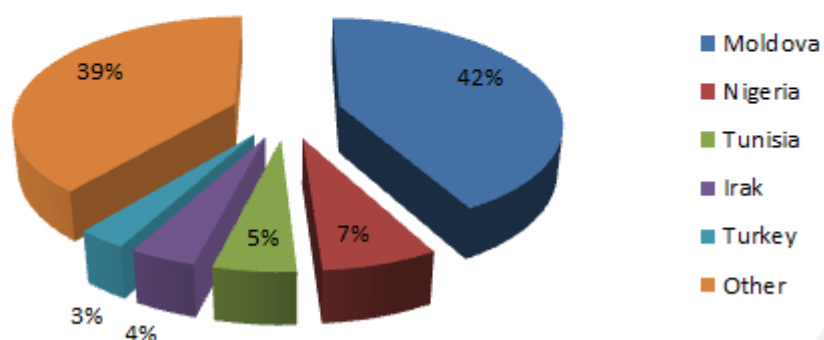
The project activities facilitated the social, economic and cultural integration of TCNs legally residing in Romania through: (a) information, counseling and direct assistance to vulnerable TCNs and (b) raising awareness among local

information & counseling on accessing healthcare and educational services and direct assistance to vulnerable migrants. The network is active in counties with high number of TCNs and has a valuable experience in working with migrants and vulnerable people in general.

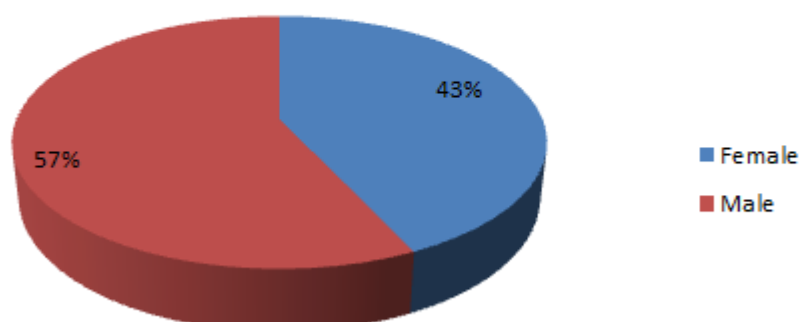
The project continues collecting data on the profile and needs of the beneficiaries and fosters exchange of information and good practices through a dedicated website on migrant integration - www.romaniaeacasa.ro.

In 2015, 1.449 TCN were informed and counseled about social, cultural, medical, educational integration of migrants in Romania, out of which 110 received direct assistance.

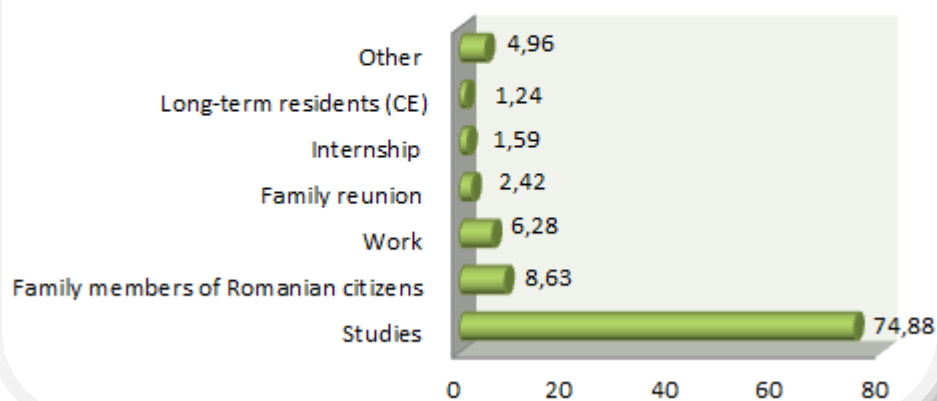
Country of origin of TCN
(% of TCN counseled and informed)

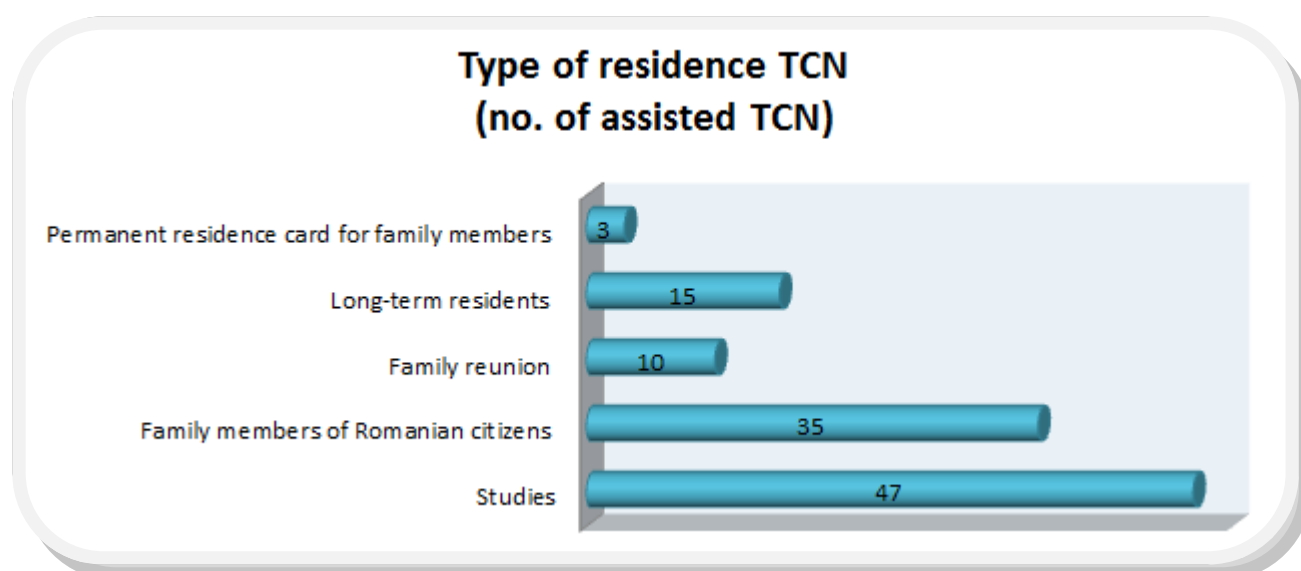
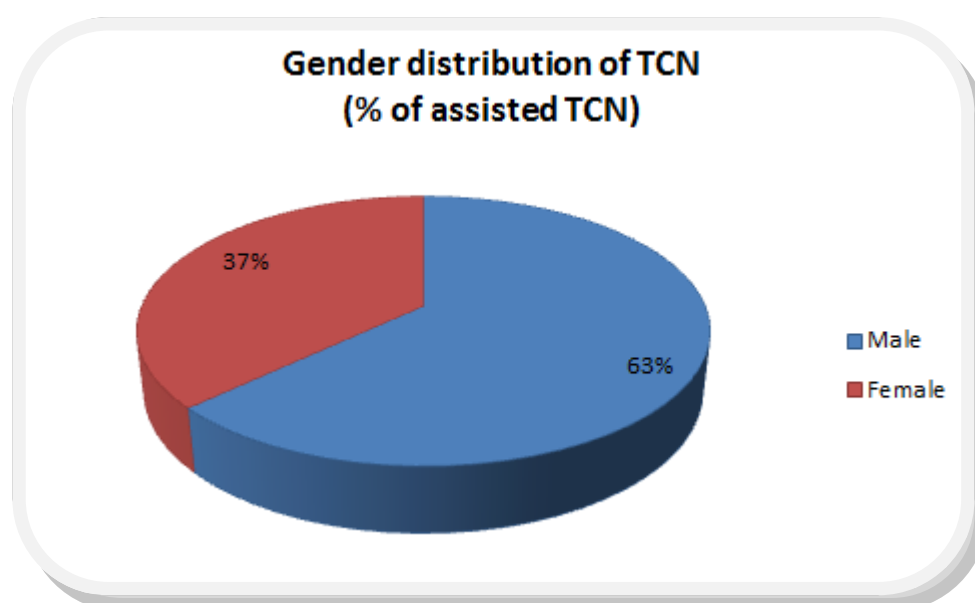
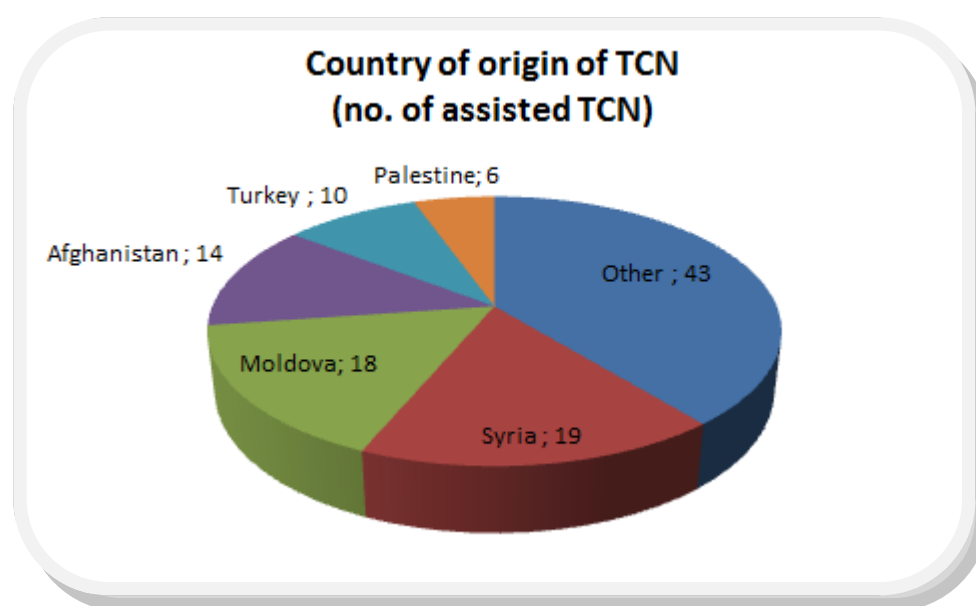


Gender distribution of TCN
(TCN counseled and informed)



Type of residence TCN
(% of TCN counseled and informed)





Events

A series of events (more than 20 local events, 1 national seminar) were organised to bring central and local public authorities, diplomatic missions in Romania, migrant communities, NGO and media under the umbrella of the project "National coordination of third-country nationals (TCN) integration in Romania".

IOM supports policies and strategies that promote the social, economic and cultural inclusion of migrants within existing legal frameworks in Romania. IOM focus is on development of strategies that help migrants to better integrate into new communities and in raising awareness among hosting communities to acknowledge the positive contributions that migrants can make into society. This two-way integration process is essential for the existence of thriving, multicultural communities.

The main topic of the local events were: Diversity and Multiculturalism within the Global Village (MIC Craiova), Brasov Multicultural Day (MIC Brasov) and MIC Ploiesti; social economy and migration management; migrants equitable access to health services and workplaces (MIC Pitesti); enhance civic participation of migrant communities (MIC Cluj-Napoca); promote intercultural dialogue in and through culinary traditions - Migrants Gastro Show (MIC Constanta) and photography exhibition (MIC Oradea).

More than 1.000 representatives (migrant, communities, NGO, central and local public authorities, diplomatic missions in Romania, and media) attended the events.

The national seminar held in Cluj-Napoca at the end of May 2015 marked the closing of the project by highlighting the best practices models created and developed during the project implementation as well as the media contest award ceremony. The media contests *Romania is home/Romania e acasa* has gathered more than 40 materials from central and local media, and migrant testimonies of those who arrive in Romania, forced by various circumstances of life, and not give up, take their destiny in their hands and with courage and excitement build their new life in Romania.

The winners are:

(a) print/online -> Ms Mirela Cara (Observatorul de Covasna): [Interviu cu australianca Elana Andrews, profesoara care educă prin muzică sute de copii din Sfântu Gheorghe](#)

(b) radio-TV -> Hunedoara TV, "Nota 10" - [Emisiunea cu Sun Baifang](#)

(c) migrant testimonies -> [Ms Elana Andrews](#)



2. Regulating migration

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programmes (AVRR)

In 2015 IOM conducted Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) operations co-financed from the European Return Fund until June 30, financed by the Romanian Government between July 1st and November 30th and co-financed from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) during the month of December.

Until the 30th of June, the AVRR operations took place within the *Strengthening of the assisted voluntary return and reintegration programmes (AVRR) in Romania* project, implemented in partnership with Asociația Serviciul Apel and with support from four other NGOs located in Galați, Suceava, Somcuta Mare and Timisoara, cities where the General Inspectorate for Immigration's public custody and open accommodation centers are located.

More concretely, the project supported the development of the AVRR in Romania through awareness rising among beneficiaries and stakeholders and through voluntary return activities for eligible migrants. The target group consisted of rejected asylum seekers, irregular migrants or beneficiaries of an international protection who choose to return to their countries of origin.

The main AVRR activities consisted of migrants information and counselling, supporting migrants in obtaining a travel document if they didn't have one, providing the beneficiaries in need with social packages, conducting vocational trainings before the departure, arranging transportation, providing assistance at departure in transit and at arrival, providing reintegration assistance.

Between July 1st and November 30th IOM activated the Memorandum of Understanding

between IOM and the Government of Romania on assisted humanitarian voluntary return and in order to carry on the AVR operations without interruption.

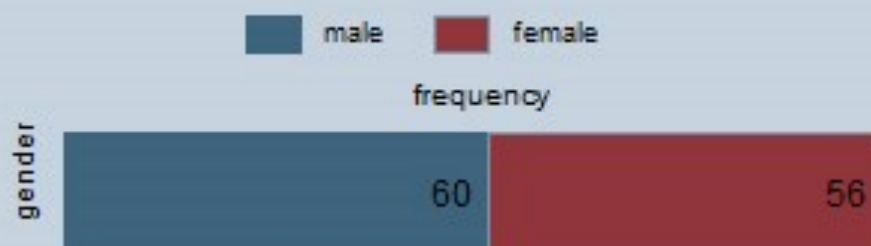
In November, IOM's project proposal for AVRR activities in the framework of AMIF was accepted and in December the operations were restarted under similar conditions as under the European Return Fund. The new project, *Support Program for Assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR)* has the funds secured until November 30th 2016.



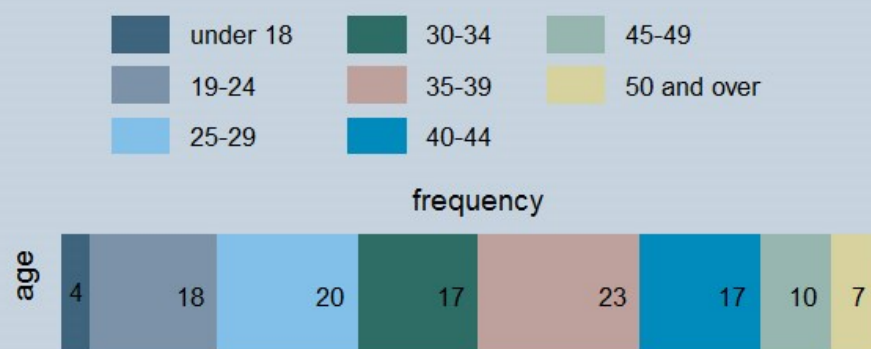
2015 AVRR results

- over 270 migrants benefited of counselling and information.
- 115 persons were assisted for their return home: 81 under the European Return Fund, 23 on the Memorandum of Understanding and 11 under the AMIF.
- 40 migrants implemented reintegration plans and 6 signed reintegration contracts in December.
- 23 migrants received social packages and migrants benefited of vocational trainings before their departure.
- three monitoring visits in countries of origin conducted in order to ensure the sustainability of the project and the identification of good

Gender Distribution of AVRR Departed Migrants.2015



Age Distribution of AVRR Departed Migrants.2015



Top countries of origin for AVRR departed migrants



National information campaign on AVRR

For a better information of the project's objectives, activities and benefits, a media campaign was conducted between February to June 2015.

The campaign was addressed to both migrants, possible beneficiaries of the project and also to the public institutions and general public in Romania in order for them to better understand the phenomena of migration.

In February 2015 TV and Radio spots have been produced and aired on two national radios and two national televisions.

Within the information campaign, printed materials — flyers, posters and brochures have been also produced.

IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED A RETURN DECISION,
IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE LEGAL RIGHT TO STAY IN ROMANIA
OR IF YOU ARE AN ASYLUM SEEKER, AND YOU WANT TO RETURN HOME,

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is here to help you return home safely, with a chance of a new life in your country.

Dacă ai primit o decizie de returnare, dacă nu ai dreptul de ședere legală în România sau dacă ești solicitant de azil, Organizația Internațională pentru Migrație (OIM) este aici pentru a te ajuta să te întorci acasă în siguranță și îți poate oferi șansa unei vieți noi în țara ta.

www.iom.ro / tel: 021 210 30 50 / e-mail: help@iom.ro

General Program "Solidarity and management of migration flows", European Return Fund, Annual Program 2013, Project: Strengthening of the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) Programs in Romania, Contract ref. no. RF/11.01-01.01/2013.

Programul General "Solidaritatea și gestionarea fluxurilor migratorii", Fondul European de Returnare, Programul Anual 2013, "Sprijinirea programelor de repatriere voluntară asistată și reintegrare (RVAR) în România", Contract ref. nr. RF/11.01-01.01/2013.

For an efficient communication to the main target group, all the materials produced within the campaign have been bilingual in English-Romanian, English-French, English-Arabic and English-Chinese.

The campaign used the creative concept *We are here to help*. The concept envisaged a simple and positive message that everybody can understand and that does not promote fear nor present negative consequences for those not enrolling with the program.



National information campaign results

- 6000 flyers and 600 posters distributed
- TV spots broadcasted by 1351 times on 3 national televisions with a total of 554 Gross Rating Points which means more than 103 mil. viewings. Out of the 1351 broadcasts, the spots have been distributed as public utility announcements by 1055 times.
- Radio spots aired by 103 times on two national radio stations with 1,8 and 1,5 daily mil. listeners.
- 5000 DVDs with the documentary film on AVRR, Horizon, distributed.

3. Addressing forced migration

The Emergency Transit Centre in Timisoara (ETC)

The facility with the capacity of hosting up to 200 people provides temporary shelter to refugees who are in need of immediate evacuation from their first country of refuge. Such evacuations occur when refugees in the camps where they are located face life threatening situations: risk of being forcibly returned to areas where they would face persecution or residence in unstable, inhumane or dangerous conditions.



In 2015, 236 persons arrived at the ETC and 209 departed to the relocation countries, the main ones being United Kingdom (139 migrants) and the United States (95 migrants). The main countries of origin for the relocated migrants have been Iraq – 116 persons, Afghanistan – 95 persons and Congo – 23 persons.

Since 2008 a more than 1800 refugees of 15 nationalities transited the ETC.

4. Migration health

Medical Processing

Migration health assessments and assistance (MHAAs) are among the most well-established migration management services offered by IOM world-wide. At the request of the receiving country governments, MHD provides an evaluation of the physical and mental health status of migrants, for the purpose of assisting them with resettlement, international employment, enrolment in specific migrant assistance programmes, or the obtainment of temporary or permanent visas.

The main benefits of MHAA include prevention of certain diseases through immunization, early detection and treatment of conditions of individual and public health concerns, safer travel and protection of health for both migrants and hosting communities. It also provides authorities in the countries of destination with adequate information thus reducing the pressure on the health and/ or social services.

MHAA are aligned with the IOM goal „healthy migrants in healthy communities” and they respond to the real-time needs mirroring the changing migratory patterns and epidemiological profiles of migrants.



Since 2001, IOM Romania has a fully established migrant health department (MHD) and consisting of 7 staff members. MHD coordinates two main activities:

The self-payers programme consisted of giving a complete spectrum of medical examinations to the visa applicants for Canada, Australia and New Zealand, according to the beneficiary Governments' official requirements, performed by empanelled medical Clinics and personnel, and medically processed within no more than half a day. All medical findings are uploaded to the E-Medical online database system, under strict confidentiality rules.

In 2015, 1441 visa medical files have been processed, mainly for Canada.

The refugee programme includes assessment of the medical status for the refugees transiting the ETC in Timisoara as per the requirements of the countries of resettlement. The programme also serves an important purpose in the prevention and control of communicable diseases prior to a migrant's departure and travel, in- and/ or out-bound ETC.

5. Romania's cooperation for development programme

IOM Romania has started in 2015 the implementation of two projects funded by The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) through Romania's cooperation for development programme.

1. Capacity Building in Border Management through Training of Trainers in Romania

The project aims to enhance border management capacities of the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Ukraine, Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Iraq, Palestina and Afghanistan in line with the European and international standards through the training of 44 trainers.



Furthermore, the initiative contributes to enabling networking and cross border dialogue between the Romanian Border Police Initial and Continuous Training School in Iasi and the national immigration and border management (IBM) training institutions in the targeted countries through exchange of good practices, technical cooperation and exploitation of synergies.

Finally, by improving the training facilities and infrastructure, the project also contributes to strengthening the profile of the Border Police Initial and Continuous Training School in Iasi as an educational leader in border management in Romania and to the fulfillment of Romania's responsibilities in the field, as an EU Member State.

The project is implemented by IOM Romania in partnership with the Ministry of Interior of Romania represented by the General Inspectorate of Border Police – Border Police Initial and Continuous Training School in Iasi. Period of implementation: June 2015 – May 2016.

2. Strengthening the institutional coordination capacity of the Moldovan Bureau for Migration and Asylum in the field of migrant reception, admission, regulation of stay and integration in the Republic of Moldova

The project aims to strengthen the institutional coordination capacity of the Moldovan Bureau for Migration and Asylum (BMA) through a functional system of migrant reception, admission, regulation of stay and migrant integration in the Republic of Moldova.

More specifically, the project will target the following three components:

- Strengthening the operational capacity of the BMA in the Republic of Moldova in the field of **migrant integration**: improvement of the inter-institutional cooperation between BMA, its local structures.
- Developing a **national response mechanism for emergency and risk situations** in case of important migratory flows.
- Assisting BMA to develop **the institutional/procedural/legal framework** in the field of admission and regulation of migrant stay in the Republic of Moldova.

Furthermore, the initiative will contribute to the infrastructure improvement of the Migrant Integration Centres in Chisinau, Balti and Cahul and of the Asylum Seekers' Centre with adequate technical equipment facilitating communication between BMA and its local structures and delivery of BMA services to migrants.



Finally, through the implementation of the three components, the project will contribute to a more robust and coherent migration management system in the Republic of Moldova and to the fulfillment of the country commitments in the EU – Republic of Moldova Association Agreement in the field of migration management.

6. Counter trafficking

Trafficking in persons continued to be in 2015 a profitable business for traffickers who fueled their networks with Romanian innocent people. All around the world, Romanian men, women and children have been trapped by tempting promises of earnings. Unfortunately, their dreams for a better life ended in labor, sexual or in new forms of human being exploitation, the identity theft.



Compared to 2014 (36 victims assisted), the number of Romanian nationals victims abroad who received IOM assistance in 2015 (identification, referral, pre-departure counselling, medical assistance, escort, return to Romania, onward transportation, post-arrival counselling and reintegration assistance) tripled (108 victims assisted). The increase is due to the strengthened cooperation between the IOM Office in Romania, the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons and the IOM Offices worldwide in the identification and referral phases. Thus, IOM Romania has supported with its own resources the return of 33 Romanians to their homes (10 from Portugal, 18 from Spain and 5 from the United Kingdom).

Other 75 Romanians have been returned from Denmark – 38, Ireland – 10, Netherlands - 9 Norway – 8, Sweden – 4, Belgium- 2, Switzerland – 3 and Poland 1.

Whereas the countries of destination do not vary compared to 2014, there are obvious variances in terms of scale of the phenomenon and the type of exploitation.

As previously mentioned, the identity theft is a new method of exploitation. 36 Romanian men have been initially promised labor contracts in Denmark. Instead, traffickers have used our nationals' identity data and fake labour contracts to open bank accounts in Denmark or small companies and take credits from banks on their behalf. The network was dismantled in Denmark early 2015 and the case has been prosecuted. All Romanians returned safely home and started a rehabilitation programme.

Labor exploitation was much more present in 2015 and touched mostly men. In total, there were 45 persons exploited for labor purposes, either in farms in Spain and Portugal, or carwash facilities in Ireland, out of which 28 men and 17 women.



In terms of sexual exploitation, it remains an area where women are mostly exploited: 24 cases have been registered in 2015, all women aged between 15 and 35, trafficked in Spain, Norway, Sweden, Netherlands, Switzerland, Denmark and the United Kingdom.

As regards begging, there were 3 cases in 2015, remarkable also by the age of the persons trafficked, 76 and 81, respectively 20 years old.

Furthermore, 4 children aged between 6 and 11 have been in a trafficking situation as they accompanied their mothers and were directly involved in sexual or labor exploitation.

The value of the reintegration assistance programmes exceeded **330,000.00 USD**, money used in Romania for medical, psychological assistance, income generating activities, vocational courses and housing. Rehabilitation programmes have been implemented in cooperation with ADPARE, one of the most professional NGOs in Romania specialized in counter-trafficking.

7. Consular services

Canada Visa Application Center (VAC)

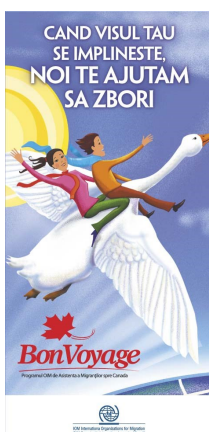
IOM Romania manages the Visa Application Center for Canada (VAC). In 2015 a number of 7451 visitor, worker and student visa files have been processed.



The center offers applicants guidance in completing their application forms, as well as allows them to make the application, and collects travel documents returned from the Canadian Embassy throughout the working day.

8. Other services, programmes and events

Assisted Transport to Canada, Australia and USA



IOM facilitates one-way tickets at specially negotiated fares as part of a humanitarian programme addressed to those who immigrate to Canada, Australia and USA as well as to workers/students who have valid visas for more than 12 months.

In 2015, 153 benefited of assisted transport to Canada.



IOM and the European Commission joined forces through the EQUI-HEALTH to improve the access and appropriateness of health care services, health promotion and prevention to meet the needs of migrants, the Roma and other vulnerable minority groups, including irregular migrants in the EU/EEA. The project has been officially launched on the 1st of April 2013 and is scheduled to be ended on the 1st of April 2016.

Within the project, a study visit was organized by IOM Bucharest and the Romanian National Public Health Institute, to continue the discussions between Roma health mediators, program coordinators, and Health Ministries' representatives from Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, and Spain. The Study Visit consisted of a two day workshop, followed by a visit to a Roma settlement in the municipality of Mihăilești (Giurgiu County) as well as to a "Caracuda" Centre for Harm Reduction in Bucharest, District 5. The study visit was concluded with a wrap-up session during which participants shared their impressions from the workshop sessions, and provided recommendations for future joint work.



Active Citizenship: enhancing political participation of migrant youth (ACCESS)

The Active Citizenship: Enhancing Political Participation of Migrant Youth (ACCESS) project is a European Commission-funded project that aims to help enhance political participation among young people. The project was developed on the assumption that young people who are politically active at the local level are more likely to have a sense of European

citizenship and identity and thereby contribute to the development of their societies.

ACCESS views young people as a positive force for transformative social change. The project has provided equal opportunities for migrant youth to participate in society, and raise awareness and

recognition through non-traditional channels such as music, art, sports, movements and political statements as a means of engaging. During the project, a total of more than 125 migrant young people and political actors were brought together to discuss elements needed to foster and encourage third country national youth political participation.

During the 18-month period, the project has invited young adults to brainstorm and actively participate in influencing those areas most important to them. In all partner cities, ACCESS Youth Teams implemented various activities which connected like-minded young people together to make an impact on policies and address the challenges faced by their communities. The teams organised consultative meetings with EU parliamentarians and national authorities, where they raised issues such as youth social exclusion and marginalisation, youth unemployment and migrant youth challenges in the school environment.

The aim of the ACCESS peer review was to increase partnering municipalities' awareness of the benefits and limitations of their practices, programmes and policies for involving migrant youth in decision-making processes. Through the peer review process, the project has created new ways of generating dialogue between generations and building networks

Between young people and decision-makers across partner countries. Peers evaluated the current policies and practices in all partner municipalities and provided concrete advice and tools for the authorities in involving young people in the planning, implementing and monitoring of questions concerning them.

The findings of these peer reviews can be found under the Self-Assessment Tool, available online www.accessyouth.eu.

The ACCESS project was implemented in partnership with eleven partners from five EU Member States, including municipalities and youth organisations. The project was managed by IOM Helsinki with support from IOM offices in Bucharest, Madrid, Marseille and Prague. Romanian partners of the projects were the Municipality of Cluj Napoca and Romanian Youth Council.

In Cluj Napoca, ACCESS youth teams implemented various activities directed towards enhancing knowledge and raised understanding of the opportunities and responsibilities of migrant youth



on local, national and EU-wide levels and to provide equal opportunities for migrant youth to participate in the society through non-traditional channels. The teams have built MOSAICO, the Latin American association that aims to address the challenges faced by the Latin American migrants in Romania and to promote political and civic participation of Latin American youth residing in Romania.

The youth teams organized consultative meetings with members of the national parliament where they raised issues such as youth unemployment, migrant youth challenges and lack of information and understanding of the opportunities and responsibilities of migrant youth on local level. Their recommendation given to parliamentarians was to get together prospective employers and employees (migrant youth) to discuss the advantages of hiring young people from outside EU.

IOM Romania signs collaboration agreement with the Romanian MFA

In November 2015, IOM Romania and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania (MFA) signed a collaboration agreement. This Agreement contains provisions relating to the following areas of cooperation:

- (a) voluntary return of vulnerable persons;
- (b) migration research, assessment of the exits and entrance of the migrants to/from Romania, migration statistics, trends and policy recommendations and any other activities of mutual interest;
- (c) training of Consular personnel in the fields of migration, counter trafficking, refugees rights and relocation.



Diplomats from Egypt, Tunisia and Iraq visited IOM Romania

On September 16th, 2015, a group of diplomats from Egypt, Tunisia and Iraq were invited to visit the IOM Romania Office as part of a training programme on diplomacy and international relations. The training framework provided to the diplomats the opportunity to exchange views on current international affairs with their Romanian counterparts and with relevant and international experts and practitioners. The programme included a series of working visits at the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romanian Parliament, Romanian Permanent Electoral Authority and international organizations.

The diplomats expressed their interest in the current migration flows and migration management. Therefore, the training agenda included a working visit at the IOM Romania premises. The main subjects of the discussions were: the IOM activities in Romania, the humanitarian assistance and the IOM Response Plan to the current migration flows.

The training is part of the broader Official Development Assistance (ODA) programme of the Romanian Government and was jointly designed and implemented by the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNDP Romania and the Romanian Diplomatic Institute.

Informal meetings on the situation of third country nationals (TCN) students in Romania

The number of TCN students in Romania is increasing year by year. It appears that many of them face difficulties in getting or renewing their residence permits or in relation with the host universities. At the request of the Embassies of Algeria, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia, IOM facilitated an informal meeting gathering high level representatives of institutions with responsibilities in TCN reception and integration in Romania. The purpose of the meeting was to raise awareness on the difficulties students face and identify adequate solutions to address these difficulties.



The main topics of discussions were: Access to information; Letter of acceptance; and Residence permits after graduation. The solutions identified by the representatives were as follows:

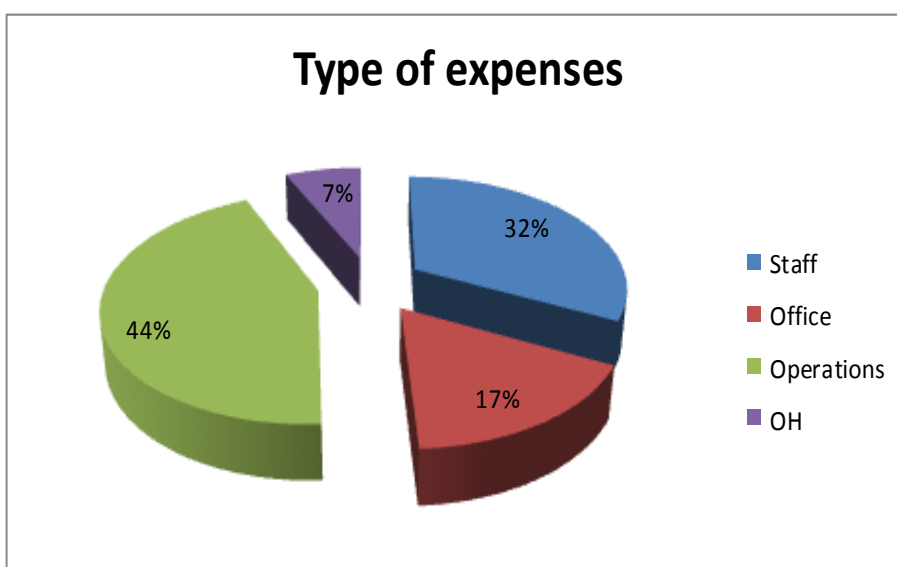
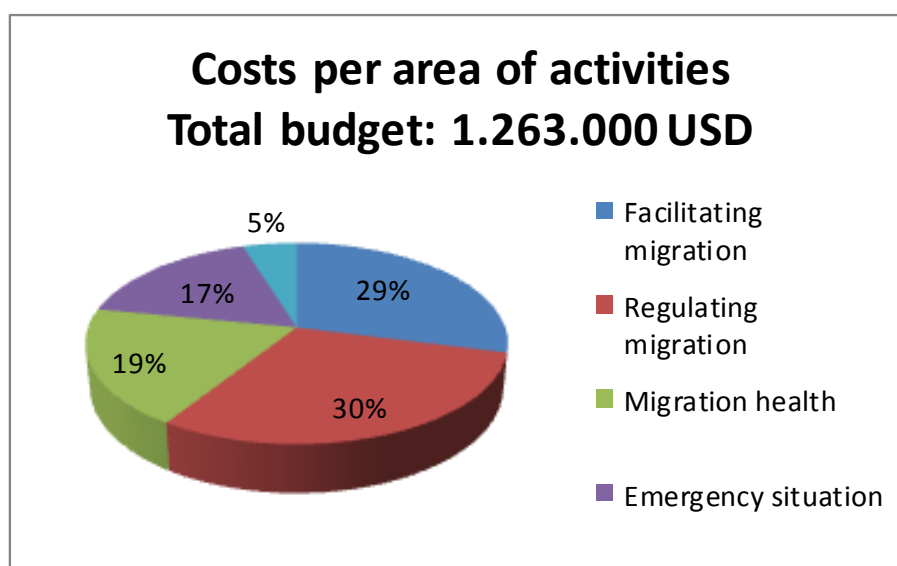
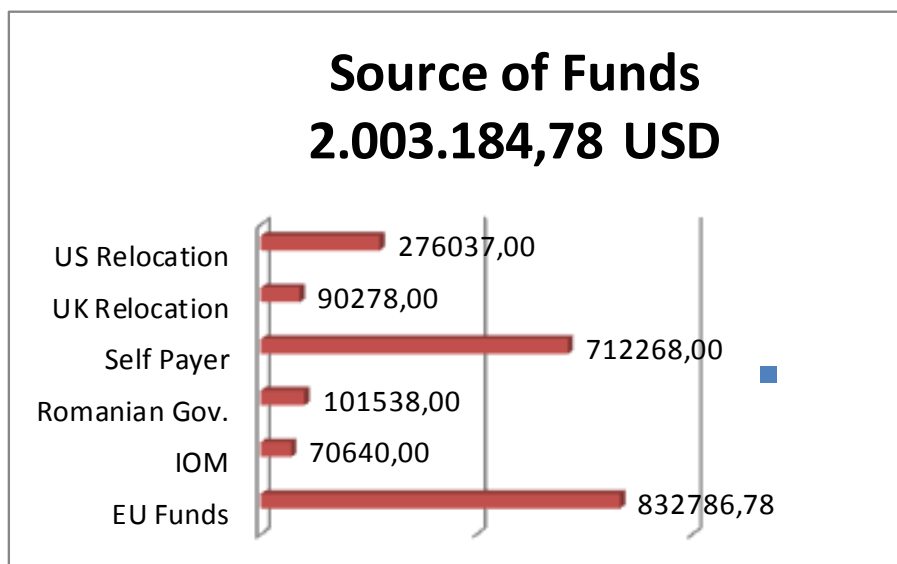
(a) To develop a multilingual one-stop-shop for foreign students offering, as a single entry point, information/FAQ/examples and templates regarding visa requirements to study in Romania, application, selection, enrolment for studies, regulation of stay and career development opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. The establishment of a body/agency to lobby for education in Romania was also proposed.

(b) To introduce a paragraph in the letter of acceptance highlighting that there is a deadline for students to confirm the acceptance of the place.

(c) The General Inspectorate for Immigration (GII) confirmed that as of November 2014, with the entry into force of the Ordinance 25/2014, students are allowed to legally reside in Romania 6 months after graduation. The 6 months extension is granted upon request. This extension also grants the right to identify job opportunities and to be employed without being obliged to leave Romania. Furthermore, the Ordinance 25/2014 has annulled the obligation of foreign students to be employed only in the field of studies

The solution agreed was to better disseminate the provisions of the Ordinance 25/2014 among students. As for the former graduates who have not obtained so far their diplomas, solutions to facilitate their entry in Romania still need to be identified.

V Resources



VI 2016 MIGRATION OUTLOOK AND CHALLENGES

2015 recorded the highest number of displaced people and refugees worldwide – 60 million – a number not seen since the World War II. Nearly 1 million overwhelmed administratively and politically in what we could call one of the biggest mixed migration influxes in its modern history. Men, women, children, elderly, trafficked and smuggled persons fled war, persecutions, poverty, religious strife and other profound changes in their homelands and headed Europe in search of a new life. And they came not only from Syria, a country devastated by years of civil war, but also from Afghanistan, Iraq, Gaza, Eritrea, Nigeria, Somalia,

Most Syrian refugees ended up in overcrowded and underfunded camps in the afford-mentioned neighboring countries. With little hope of returning home, many of these families will continue seeking new lives mostly in Europe.

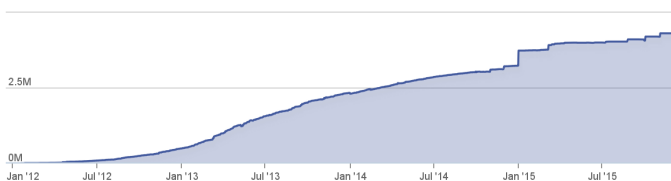
The escalation of armed conflict in Iraq and the precarious security situation have resulted in new internal and external movements of Iraqi people. Minority groups like the Yazidis and the small communities of Assyrian, Nestorian and Chaldean Christians from Northern Iraq are homeless. There are now about two million Iraqi



Sudan or Iran, leaving behind failed states and a big variety of problem places.

However, one can say Europe with its welfare system should be able to host more than 1 million migrants. But what if the influx gets bigger and, actually, how much bigger could it get?

The Syrian crisis is rooted in Syria's Civil War, which marks its fifth year in 2015. By 2014, Syria was divided between government, rebel, ISIS, and Kurdish forces. There are between six and eight million people displaced in Syria and more than four million fleeing as refugees in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, not to mention those who lost their lives either because of the war, or because the unsafe boats they tried to cross the Mediterranean with.



(UN High Commission on Refugees)

Syrian refugees registered with the UN over time.

refugees, many bound for Europe.

The Taliban continue to increase their territorial expansion in Afghanistan. According to a [Gallup Poll](#), a quarter of Afghans said that they want to leave and so they have been doing so far.

Coming back to the Middle East, Yemenis are also about to abandon their homeland in high numbers. Over 120,000 people have fled since April 2015 and more than 15,000 refugees have sought protection across the Gulf of Aden, in Djibouti. Not so far away from here, there is a whole region in continuous turmoil – East and Horn of Africa which constantly fuels migratory flows toward Europe.

Not to forget that climate change too is highly affecting societies and economies across the Middle East and Africa. Large areas of sub-Saharan Africa have become uninhabitable because of the expanded desertification and severe draught.

To sum-up, on the basis of the current flows and the situation in countries of origin and transit, the European Economic Forecast (Autumn 2015) estimates an additional 3 million persons in the EU. This corresponds to an increase in the population of 0.4% after taking into account that some asylum seekers do not qualify for international protection.

Whereas the number itself is problematic by its scale and people management difficulties it causes to transit and destination countries, Europe will need to cope with subsequent challenges in 2016.



Firstly, it would need to call on its Member States to speed-up the quota relocation system and convince Governments to consider a permanent relocation system scheme.

By the end of 2015, **only 160 individuals** have been relocated – **130 from Italy** (49 to Finland, 19 to France, 39 to Sweden, 12 to Spain, 11 to Germany) and **30 from Greece** (to Luxembourg) and **15 out of the 31 participating countries have pledged to make places available**, namely Belgium (30), Bulgaria (1,302), Cyprus (30), Finland (150), France (900), Germany (30), Ireland (20), Lithuania (40), Luxembourg (90), Malta (131), **the Netherlands (100)**, Portugal (100), **Romania (300)**, Spain (50), Sweden (300) and Liechtenstein (43), with an overall number of only **3,616 places**. Nevertheless, nearly 1 million arrived already in Italy and Greece and other millions are yet to come.

Secondly, throughout Europe xenophobia, racism and right-wing nationalist parties have gained ground and shown hostility to the migrants. Thus, ways to reach more political consensus at European level and adherence to the common European values would have to be further strengthened.

Thirdly, by initiating the quota system, Europe takes the migration crisis as its problem. However the mass migration is not just a problem for Europe, but for the whole world which needs more dialogue on migration and more effective solutions toward legalizing migration channels and intervening together in crisis situations.

As regards IOM's role in the migration crisis, it promotes the protection of migrants' rights and puts the well-being of migrants at the very center of its interventions.

Given its broad migration mandate, IOM is uniquely positioned to address the humanitarian, protection and immediate migration management needs associated with the current migration flows; while also undertaking measures with longer-term impacts. This includes undertaking programmes that address the underlying drivers of irregular migration; support structural changes towards more efficient migration systems; and promote sustainable human development. As such, IOM Partnerships with different organizations and strategic cooperation with governments ensure that IOM is well

In 2016, IOM aims to:

Promote the protection of all migrants and their rights, thereby reducing their vulnerability;

- Promote implementation of rights-based approaches (RBA) in its programming, raising awareness on existing international legal standards;
- Develop capacities of partner organizations and increase general knowledge on International Migration Law (IML), including existing legal tools and norms in the migration field;
- Advocate for equal rights under the law in employment and mobility and help combat discriminatory migration practices in terms of gender or other diversity characteristics;
- Increase understanding of how gender affects migration, how migration influences gender roles and relations and the relation between gender and access to social services, economic growth, capacities, risks and vulnerabilities;
- Further define IOM's responsibilities vis-à-vis internationally agreed core humanitarian principles through the IOM Principles for Humanitarian Action and the mainstreaming of protection in crises settings; and